

you have an important and responsible position. And while I am sure that it's exciting to you and maybe makes you feel good when you are lavishing your wife with these experiences, in my opinion you might try handling it a little different. Having some experience in this field, I think if it were me, you're better off when your wife asks, "how was your day dear?" you say "I was so busy I only had time for a tuna fish sandwich." Or as he told Kevin Brown often "old age, experience, and treachery will defeat youth and ambition every time."

Billy's obituary was full of the pride he had for his Italian heritage and about what America had done for him. And with justifiable pride acknowledged the journey of his parents as well as his own. This was apparent with his routine drive past the Motor Vehicle building which bears his name. It does so because his parents embedded in him those 5 simple words:

"How may I help you?"

He traveled to D.C. back in 2008 and was escorted by Linda Christiana. His trip was highlighted by dinner at the Italian Embassy with Ambassador Castellaneta. When I saw the Ambassador weeks later, he remembered Billy, and how entertaining and proud he was of his Italian heritage. He added, "he's even invited me to a Bocce tournament that I believe is at your house!"

That's our guy. And we have a letter here from the Italian Embassy:

LETTER FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY:

We, at the Embassy of Italy were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Senator Biagio "Billy" Ciotto. In his passing, Connecticut, and indeed the whole US, has lost a great statesman, and a wonderful American, proud of his Italian origins, which he never lost an opportunity to proudly recall.

The story of Senator Ciotto's life speaks clearly to his many talents and innate human touch. His generosity, kindness and dedication were a source of inspiration to the community whom he served with passion, honor, and dignity. Senator Ciotto was an exemplary civil servant, and wholeheartedly dedicated himself to serving this great Country and his fellow Americans, while never forgetting his ancestral land, Italy.

Our sincere condolences go out to Mrs. Ciotto, his family, and the entire Italian-American and American community at this moment of great loss. Senator Ciotto may be not with us anymore, but his legacy lives on, and will always do so through the many people, he touched, and inspired.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Grazie, Senator Ciotto.

The first time he met with Nancy Pelosi there was an instant bond. She had broken a barrier and was the first woman Speaker of the House. And when he met her, bursting with pride he said "Madam Speaker you have broken a barrier and as a father with two daughters I am so grateful and proud. But as a young man, I listened to your father Thomas D'Alesandro Jr. He was the first Italian Mayor of Baltimore and he had a Sunday address, he made us proud of our heritage and I listened intently to what he had to say. And now his daughter is not only the first woman Speaker of the House, but as important to people of our heritage and faith, she is the first Italian."

The bond between them was instant and lasting. A mutual admiration, so much so that after an eight year hiatus as Speaker, when we recaptured the House and took back the majority in 2018, her guest of honor at her swearing in was Billy. And with a cigar in hand and escorted by Sarah Gianni, he took it all in from his front row seat in the House Balcony.

LETTER FROM SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

Every now and then, a person comes along whose heart is so full of love and whose life is so full of kindness that he radiates joy: Such a blessed person is Billy Ciotto. Perhaps he had such generosity of spirit because of how his parents raised Biagio and because of his happy marriage to Jeanne.

Everyone loved Billy, because they knew that Billy cared. In his work, whether at the DMV or in the State Senate, where he served with John Larson, whom he loved, he made everyone feel important. In taking pride in his Italian American heritage, he respected others' pride in theirs. In his faith in God, he gave hope and charity to all. Anyone who was blessed and shaped by Billy's friendship wanted to live up to his loyalty.

Billy was in the arms of his loving family on March 19, the Feast of Saint Joseph, the patron saint of a happy death, very special to Italian Americans, and made his passage on the 20th. I hope it is a comfort to Jeanne and his children Joseph, Anthony, Julia, John, and Maria, and their grandchildren that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time. Billy will be sadly missed by all of us who loved him. In his life, Billy brought joy to the world and now he has brought his humor to Heaven.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives.

We know heaven will never be the same and he's up there with some pretty good company. To be acknowledged and loved by the entire community he served and yes to have the Italian Ambassador and the Speaker of the House eulogize you is pretty impressive. So many words of condolence for Jeanne and the family. So many stories—therefore our staff will be keeping the website open to post on what everyone sends to us of your memories with Billy. And among the first of those that we have is someone who knows something about the loss of a beloved one. Jeanne, we have here a letter from the President of the United States:

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Dear Mrs. Ciotto and Family, Please accept Jill's and my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved Billy. Your entire family is in our thoughts and prayers.

I know that this time must be difficult beyond words, and you feel like there is a hole in your heart. In the hardest of times like these, I always turn to family. It is so important to be able to share the feeling of enveloping grief and to have people you love nearby to absorb some of the worst pain.

Billy was a devoted husband and father who loved you all immensely. He spent his life building and strengthening the Ciotto family bonds, which are meant for you to lean on during hard times like this. Your family shared Billy with Connecticut and with the Nation—and thanks to your sacrifices, he was able to help our country's most vulnerable. Billy was a true public servant.

Though the grieving process never quite ends, it is my hope that you will find comfort knowing that Billy will forever be in our hearts and memories and those of so many whose lives he touched. From experience, I promise you the day will come when his memory will bring a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye. My prayer for you and your family is that day comes sooner rather than later.

Sincerely, Joe Biden.

Billy will always be with us. Provided we continue to post and tell those stories we fondly remember. The most important way he'll stay with us is if we follow his example by saying when we have the opportunity: How may I help you?

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SEAN CASTLE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Sean Castle, who passed away on June 28, 2021 at the age of 43 following an apparent heart attack. He was a beloved member of the San Rafael community and a dedicated music teacher at the local high school.

Sean was born on March 28, 1978 and attended San Rafael High School in Marin County. After graduating from UCLA, he returned to his hometown to teach music. Sean helped establish San Rafael High School's award-winning music program, dedicating his entire 20-year career to creating a supportive and enriching community for students, staff, and families. He helped develop and then manage the school's jazz band and a wind ensemble that played at homecomings and other events, and he organized the school's jazz choir and a percussion class called Steel Pans. He was respected by staff and aptly referred to as the "musical soul" of San Rafael High School. Sean's passion for music created an environment for youth to grow musically and emotionally while exploring their creativity.

Sean lived a full and vibrant life, demonstrating gratitude and generosity for all those with whom he crossed paths. He had a passion for camping, golfing, playing backgammon, supporting the Giants baseball team, and cooking meals for loved ones. Sean is survived by his fiancée, Nicole Dube; his mother, Kris Castle; his father Kent Castle; and his brother Darren Castle.

Madam Speaker, Sean's positive impact on thousands of individuals will extend well beyond his short life. I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Sean's family, friends and innumerable loved ones for their unexpected loss and in expressing our deep appreciation for his work spearheading a program that will continue to educate and inspire students for generations to come.

HONORING DR. REBECCA CRANE AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Rebecca Crane of the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born in California but raised primarily in Connecticut, Rebecca returned to California in the late 1980's where she attended the University of California San Diego graduating with a degree in Visual Arts with minors in biology and chemistry. After a year of working on an

immunization project in Paraguay and an HIV screening clinic in Los Angeles, she attended Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, where she obtained her Medical Doctor and Master of Public Health degrees. Dr. Crane completed her medical residency in combined internal medicine and pediatrics in Los Angeles and became an attending physician at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, where she worked as a primary care physician, and was a breastfeeding advocate for mothers in the newborn nursery. Rebecca moved to Urgent Care after several years in Family Medicine to accommodate the needs of her family and other pursuits. Acting on her passion to advance women's health, Dr. Crane led a committee at Kaiser to make the hospital a Baby Friendly Hospital.

Rebecca and her family moved to Silver Lake in 2008, where her children attended local schools, including Micheltorena Street Elementary School. One of Rebecca's greatest accomplishments has been as an active member from 2008 to 2015 of Friends of Micheltorena, the support group for the school, where she helped to revitalize the school and bring in a dual-language program, in addition to being a founding member of the Micheltorena School and Community Garden.

As an essential frontline worker during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Rebecca has been grateful to be able to serve her community through this crisis. She experienced the fear, sorrow, uncertainty, and exhaustion that accompanied most frontline workers at the outset of the pandemic, but the fear subsided after treating her first COVID-19 patient and she settled into the comfort of work, as Kaiser's Urgent Care was adapted into two separate units, with a temporary testing facility in the garage. Earlier this year Rebecca assisted in organizing a three-day event at Kaiser called "A Time to Grieve, a Time to Heal," to commemorate all the patients, family members, and loved ones her fellow healthcare workers had lost during the pandemic, and to honor all the hospital staff.

In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys spending time with her husband, Jordan and their two children, Lucy and Hollis, in addition to hiking, camping, and gardening.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Rebecca Crane.

#### URGENT NEED TO PASS H.R. 40 ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DEVELOP REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the importance of passing H.R. 40, legislation which I introduced that establishes a commission to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans.

Now—more than ever—the facts and circumstances facing our Nation demonstrate the importance of H.R. 40 and the necessity of placing our nation on the path to reparative justice. As I speak, H.R. 40 is cosponsored by

191 Members from all parts of the nation and was marked up and reported favorably to the House by the Judiciary Committee on April 14, 2021. In 2019, when the Judiciary Committee met to discuss this legislation, three overflow rooms were required. Since that time, we have seen a pandemic sweep the country, taking more than 600,000 souls in its wake and devastating the African American community. According to the latest estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Black people get COVID-19 at a rate nearly one and a half times higher than that of white people, are hospitalized at a rate nearly four times higher, and are three times as likely to die from the disease.

Interestingly, a recent peer-reviewed study from Harvard Medical School suggests that reparations for African Americans could have cut COVID-19 transmission and infection rates both among Blacks and the population at large. Their analysis, based on Louisiana data, determined that if reparations payments had been made before the COVID-19 pandemic, narrowing the wealth gap, COVID transmission rates in the state's overall population could have been reduced by anywhere from 31 percent to 68 percent. Last summer we saw hundreds of thousands peacefully take to the streets in support of Black Lives and accountability for law enforcement. Many of those protesters carried signs in support of H.R. 40 and made the important link between policing and the movement for reparative justice. Tragically, we have also witnessed insurrectionists attack this institution, brandishing symbols of division and intolerance, that echo back to the darkest periods of our nation's history. Clearly, we require a reckoning to restore national balance and unity.

Four hundred years ago, ships set sail from the west coast of Africa and in the process, began one of mankind's most inhumane practices: human bondage and slavery. For two centuries, human beings—full of hopes and fears, dreams and concerns, ambition, and anguish—were transported onto ships like chattel, and the lives of many forever changed. The reverberations from this horrific series of acts—a transatlantic slave trade that touched the shores of a colony that came to be known as America, and later a democratic republic known as the United States of America—are unknown and worthy of exploration.

Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865. The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 through 1865. American Slavery is our country's Original Sin and its existence at the birth of our nation is a permanent scar on our country's founding documents, and on the venerated authors of those documents, and it is a legacy that continued well into the last century. The framework for our country and the document to which we all take an oath describes African Americans as three-fifths a person. The infamous Dred Scott decision of the United States Supreme Court, issued just a few decades later, described slaves as private property, unworthy of citizenship. And, a civil war that produced the largest death toll of American fighters in any conflict in our history could not prevent the indignities of Jim Crow, the fire hose at lunch counters and the systemic and institutional discrimina-

tion that would follow for a century after the end of the Civil War.

The mythology built around the Civil War has obscured our discussions of the impact of chattel slavery and made it difficult to have a national dialogue on how to fully account for its place in American history and public policy. While it is nearly impossible to determine how the lives touched by slavery could have flourished in the absence of bondage, we have certain datum that permits us to examine how a subset of Americans—African Americans—have been affected by the callousness of involuntary servitude. We know that in almost every segment of society—education, healthcare, jobs, and wealth—the inequities that persist in America are more acutely and disproportionately felt in Black America. This historic discrimination continues: African-Americans continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships including but not limited to having nearly 1,000,000 black people incarcerated; an unemployment rate more than twice the current white unemployment rate; and an average of less than 1/16 of the wealth of white families, a disparity which has worsened, not improved over time. A closer look at the statistics reveals the stark disparity in these areas.

Black household wealth is less than one fifth of the national average. The median black household had a net worth of just \$17,600 in 2016. Yet in that same year, the median white household held \$171,000 in wealth while the national household median was \$97,300. The black unemployment rate is 6.6 percent, more than double the national unemployment rate. Approximately 31 percent of black children live in poverty, compared to 11 percent of white children. The national average is 18 percent, which suggests that the percentage of black children living in poverty is more than 150 percent of the national average.

In the healthcare domain, the disparities suffered by African Americans is also troubling. Over 20 percent of African Americans do not have health insurance, compared to a national average between 8.8 percent and 9.1 percent. One in four African American women are uninsured. Compared to the national average, African American adults are 20 percent more likely to suffer from asthma and three times more likely to die from it. Black adults are 72 percent more likely to suffer from diabetes than average. Black women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes, such as embolisms, and pregnancy-related hypertension, than any other racial group. In our nation, among children aged 19–35 months, black children were vaccinated at rates lower than white children: 68 percent versus 78 percent, respectively.

Education has often been called the key to unlocking social mobility. African American students are less likely than white students to have access to college-ready courses. In fact, in 2011–12, only 57 percent of black students have access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readiness, compared to with 81 percent of Asian American students and 71 percent of white students. Black students spend less time in the classroom due to discipline, which further hinders their access to a quality education. Black students are nearly two times as likely to be suspended without educational services as white students. Black students are also 3.8 times as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions as white students.